

Town of



AMHERST *Massachusetts*

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT COMMITTEE

Date: October 4, 2010

From: Peter Jessop, Chair, Community Preservation Act Committee

To: Conservation Commission
Conservation – David Ziomek, Director
Leisure Services & Supplemental Education Commission
LSSE - Linda Chalfant, Director
Housing Partnership/Fair Housing – Nancy Gregg, Chair
Housing Partnership – Roy Rosenblatt
Amherst Housing Authority – Jean Haggerty, Chair
Historical Commission
Planning Department
Select Board
Jones Library Trustees
Kestrel Trust
Mass Housing Partnership
Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity
Hitchcock Center
JCPC
South Amherst Conservation Association
Kendrick Park Study Committee
Amherst Committee on Homelessness
Community Development Committee
Rotary Club
Amherst Club
Women's Club
Amherst Historical Society
Amherst Agricultural Commission
Valley Land Fund
American Farmland Trust

Subject: Call for Proposals Qualifying for CPA Funding

The Community Preservation Act (CPA), adopted by Amherst voters in April 2001, established a local fund based on a 1% tax surcharge (later amended to 1.5%) on property valuations above \$100,000 *"for the acquisition, creation and preservation of open space; for the acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of historic resources; for the acquisition, creation and preservation of land for recreational use; for the acquisition, creation, preservation and support of community housing; and for the rehabilitation or restoration of open space, land for*

recreational use and community housing that is acquired or created." The law also established a State Trust Fund, from which annual allocations are made to towns that have accepted the Act, partially or fully matching local appropriations. Local allocations are currently being matched by the state at around 28%, resulting in a projected total amount for distribution of more than \$500,000 for this year. Please remember that it is possible for Town Meeting to authorize long term borrowing and then use future CPA funds to pay off the debt, so feel free to submit proposals even if the amount of money may seem to be larger than the amount available.

The Community Preservation Act Committee (CPAC) is charged with assessing the needs of the Town in those areas identified by the Act, and recommending relevant expenditures to Town Meeting. By state law, CPA funds are to be spent only on community housing, historic preservation, open space, and recreation. A minimum of 10% of the available funds (from the surcharge and the state match) must be set aside each year (although not necessarily spent) for each of three categories of community housing, historical preservation, and open space. Recreation is the fourth recipient, or beneficiary, but is not mandated to receive the minimum 10%.

The considerations by which the CPAC evaluates proposals are:

1. **Feasibility of the project;**
2. **Urgency of the project;**
3. **Population(s) to be served by the project;**
4. **Acquisition or preservation of threatened resources;**
5. **Possibility of multiple sources of funding;**
6. **Complete description of project addressing cost; documentation relating to projected timeline for initiation and completion of project, and any expectations for additional funding in future years.**
7. **Funding available;**
8. **Priorities set by requesting town committees or commissions.**

The Committee intends to develop recommendations for funding to be considered at the Annual Town Meeting next spring.

At this time, we invite you to review projects appropriate to the provisions of the Act that you would like CPAC to consider. Please submit to us, by December 10, 2010, in order of priority, your top projects. Generally speaking, the CPAC refers projects to the relevant Commissions and Boards for their input on proposals. Typically, we refer open space proposals to the Conservation Commission, recreation proposals to LSSE, historical preservation proposals to the Historical Commission, and community housing proposals to Housing Partnership and the Amherst Housing Authority. Please indicate the category of interest (Housing, Open Space, Historic Preservation, and Recreation), a project description, costs, partnerships, any seasonal or timing restrictions, and the amount of CPA support requested for each. **Please send your proposals to the Accounting Office, Town Hall, clearly marked "CPAC c/o Comptroller Sonia Aldrich."**

The Committee will consult with each Commission or Board to schedule presentations of projects at one of our meetings scheduled for January or February.

Please contact me at 549-7919 should you have any questions, or email me at peter@integbuild.com.